

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

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**ITEM**

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**DECISION**

**TOPIC**

Farm Management Contract – Brushy Creek State Recreational Area, Webster County -- Sunderman Farm Management Co.

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The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested, pursuant to Chapter 8 of the Iowa Administrative Code [561], to enter into a farm management contract with Sunderman Farm Management Co. of Fort Dodge, IA to provide farm management services in the Brushy Creek State Recreation Area through September 30, 2013.

Professional farm managers in partnership with DNR foresters, wildlife biologists and technicians as well as parks and recreational area managers have been utilized since 1987 to improve the agricultural lease program for wildlife habitat management in a variety of areas. Proposals were solicited to provide farm management services for 952 acres of agricultural land in the Brushy Creek State Recreational Area where 9 leases are currently administered. Invitations for proposals were mailed to a number of farm management firms and were also advertised in newspapers in Webster City, Fort Dodge, and Des Moines.

Two proposals were received. The proposals were reviewed by a four person selection committee: Todd Rozendaal, Greg VanFossen, Scott Peterson and Chad Kelchen.

Sunderman Farm Management Co.	Fort Dodge, IA	\$47,600
Hertz Farm Management	Humboldt, IA	\$95,200

Staff recommends awarding the contract to Sunderman Farm Management Co. to provide the above mentioned services for \$47,600. Sunderman Farm Management Co. manages approximately 16,000 acres most of which are located within 50 miles of Fort Dodge and several farms near the Brushy Creek Area. They have been in the farm management business for 47 years and work with approximately 60 operators in the area. Farm Manager, Brian Larson has 40 years of farm management experience, 9 years of experience with U.S. Soil Conservation Service, and a lifetime of experience on his family's farm.

Linda Hanson, Administrator  
Management Services Division  
September 11, 2008